

PEACE NEWS

No. 424 July 28, 1944 2d.

The MORAL of the ROBOTS

by Corder Catchpool

THE new German weapon is the universal topic of London talk. There is widespread evidence of growing hatred against the Germans, which even after five years of war is a new and significant note, that bodes ill.

Good, kind people shake their fists in the air demanding revenge, or cry "Oh the cowards, they daren't come over themselves!" in angry frustration that they cannot immediately retaliate in kind.

I have heard repeatedly that "we" first invented these weapons, "but we weren't cruel enough to use them." The Americans too claim the possession of a robot-plane as early as 1918, ready to bomb Berlin at 400 miles range, as well as a rocket-bomb, and their employment in the present war was under review. No moral scruples appear to have influenced the decision against it, but solely technical considerations. The bombing plane was preferred, of which a Super-Super-Fortress is now reported to be in production.

Attitude of Press

But what would the women-folk of the RAF crews have said to the automatic bombing of Germany, without risking the precious lives of their loved-ones, had they been consulted? Would they demand the retention of flying personnel because it is less cruel or morally superior to drop bombs from high above a city, than to fire them at it from afar?

It becomes us to judge generously this spirit in our neighbours' minds, produced under sudden stress, however anxiously we may look to the future which warped mentalities will shape; but I cannot pass lightly over the attitude of the Press. This vast formative influence of public opinion appears to be deliberately fanning the temper of the people into a flame of anger.

"The flying bombs have at least had one good result," writes the Sunday Express, "they have raised the white heat our hatred against the Germans." Hamilton Fyfe, writing later on the same theme in the same paper, says, "At no time has the hatred of Germans been so fierce as

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

ONCE UPON A TIME . . .

"Man called Dick . . . lot people wrote PCs . . . Met together . . . PPU. Office staff to write letters—arrange meetings . . . More PCs . . . Dick had friends—gave subs . . . "Dick died . . . Still PPU. Bought DS House Work goes on—letters—meetings—PCs—travelling—exes—stamps—stationery—staff must eat sometimes—have families—homes—clothes . . . WILL YOU HELP? A steady flow may save the need for a BIG SPLASH!"

A BOVE storyette comes from a contributor to Headquarters Fund.

I hope it will get home!

Contributions to Headquarters Fund since July 14: £9 13s. 6d. Total to date £186 9s. 1d.

Donations to the Fund, which should be marked "Headquarters Fund" will be gratefully received by me at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1.

MAURICE L. ROWNTREE
Hon. Treasurer.

IS GERMANY HEADING FOR CHAOS ?

THE attempted assassination of Hitler on July 20 is a theme for endless and fruitless speculation. If it was, as the Manchester Guardian (July 21) at first suggested, a put-up job on the pattern of the Reichstag fire, one can only be amazed at the boldness of those who put up such a job at such a crisis in the fortunes of Germany. It seems a fearful risk to take.

The Times (July 22) said peremptorily that the idea that it was a put-up job could be dismissed, and the M.G. also dismissed it. Although I have an uneasy feeling, which dates back to the purge of '34, that the psychology of the chief Nazi leaders is something outside the range of ordinary (or even extraordinary) expectation, my belief is that the plot was real.

I doubt whether many Army leaders were actively implicated in it. But most of the older generals would probably have been sympathetic enough if it had succeeded. From the classical military point of view of the German General Staff, which thinks (like all General Staffs) only of living to fight another day, the war is now lost.

End in chaos ?

PROBABLY nothing less than assassination would induce Hitler to take this view. He is an incredibly dangerous man because he is a man with a mission, whose duty it is to go forward till Destiny is fulfilled. The practical problem therefore is how far or how long he can retain decisive power over the German people. And there we come upon the sinister and somewhat ambiguous figure of Himmler. If Himmler is the devoted disciple of Hitler and his daemon, then nothing less than mass civil disobedience at home, or mass-desertion from

the fighting armies, will put an end to Hitler's mission. Since it is difficult to conceive that Himmler can regard himself as an alternative to Hitler, one has the feeling that this drama will be played out to a grim conclusion: chaos.

The conclusion, whatever it is, cannot be very far away. Now, in spite of all reluctance, one can speak with some conviction of "the beginning of the end"—provided one does not define the nature of the end. There is no doubt about the threat of military disaster on a very large scale indeed on the Eastern Front. The relative lack of success in Normandy is striking.

Japanese prospects

AT the other end of the global battlefield, General Tojo has been dismissed in consequence of the Japanese defeat at Saipan. But a Japanese collapse is a good deal more remote than a German one; and though it does seem that in the long run it cannot be averted, it is futile to speculate upon the times and the seasons. What has been revealed is that American technical enterprise and ingenuity—in what has been called "an engineering war"—is vastly

more formidable than the Japanese can have imagined. Since there is no doubt that the Americans mean business towards Japan, their victory appears inevitable.

Departure of Wallace

THE dropping of Vice-President Wallace from the Democratic ticket in the Presidential election, in favour of a colourless Senator originally coined by the Prendergast machine in Missouri is depressing news. It is said that Senator Truman is personally a man of integrity. But from what I learned about the Prendergast machine when I was in Missouri, it would be difficult to believe that any of its nominees could

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

Observer's Commentary

HITLER AND RUNDSTEDT

Another mystery

THIS quotation appeared in the Sunday Express, Jul. 9, which attributed it to von Rundstedt, the German C-in-C in the West who was recently removed from his post:

"One of our great mistakes in the first World War was to spare the lives of civilians in enemy countries. We Germans must number at least twice the population of our neighbours. Therefore, we shall be compelled to destroy at least one-third of the population of all adjacent territories. We can best achieve this through systematic malnutrition—in the end far superior to machine guns starvation works more effectively, especially among the young."

In last Sunday's issue of The People, the same quotation, slightly altered, was cited by Peter Forbes—who said that Hitler wrote it during his imprisonment in the Fortress of Langsberg (in 1923). Here is Peter Forbes' version:

"Perhaps our greatest mistake in the first world war was to spare the lives of civilians in enemy countries. Germans must outnumber her neighbours by at least two to one; in a future war, therefore, Germany will be compelled to destroy at least one-third of the total population of all Europe . . . starvation may be as effective as machine-guns and bombs."

We don't know from what source Peter Forbes took his quotation. We do know that the Sunday Express version is identical with one also attributed to von Rundstedt and quoted in an article in a recent issue of Life (May 8) to reach this country from USA.

Does any reader of Peace News possess evidence to prove who wrote—or spoke—the passage in question, and where and when?

9th and 10th prosecutions

George Elphick, the Lewes CO, at his ninth prosecution, on Tuesday, for refusing to perform fire-guard duties, was fined £1.

Kenneth Sibley, of St. Albans, at his tenth prosecution, on July 20, for two similar offences, was also fined £1 on each count.

Important statements were made in each case by the chairman of the bench concerned. They are reported on page 3.

How the Germans react to raids

A FIRST-HAND REPORT

The latest number of the American magazine, Saturday Evening Post, to reach this country (May 27) contains an article called "This is Germany today" by Thomas Kerman, an American journalist who has just returned to the United States from internment in Germany. The following is an extract from this article.

IT stands to reason that when a great air armada bombards a city covering several miles the aiming of the bombs cannot be altogether exact.

European cities are closely built. So whenever we wish to destroy a railroad junction or a bridge or a plant, we are sure to hit also the homes in the vicinity, a church or two, perhaps an orphan asylum.

Totalling up this destruction Goebbels began to teach the Germans that our planes aimed only at non-military targets, and that the total job of the RAF and American bombers was to do away with the cultural and charitable institutions of Germany.

Repeated a hundred times, photographed a thousand times, rehashed in speeches by government ministers and local bigwigs, the theme of the Anglo-American assault on Europe's ancient culture has sunk very deep into the thoughts of the German people.

"AIR-GANGSTER"

Two words have been coined to describe our raids, they are *Terror angriff*, or terror attacks, and the *Luftgangster*, or the gangster of the air. Occasionally an unfortunate event will happen that confirms the German opinion on this subject.

At Baden (where Mr. Kerman was interned) we were fed up with this illogical nonsense, but three nights

later on Mar. 12, 1943, an Allied armada passed over us on its way to Stuttgart, released one bomb over Baden and burned up the Catholic church at Lichtenthal a few hundred yards from our hotel.

This was the one and only bomb dropped on the Baden valley during our thirteen months' stay.

Because the church was a large one, prominent on its hill, no-one will ever be able to persuade the local people that the bomb was an accident!

Again, the great 6,000-bed municipal hospital at Frankfurt stands out in the country, removed from any other building. Professor Schmieden (formerly of Harvard) is its head. It was totally destroyed by a recent raid.

Among the important buildings that have been entirely destroyed or very badly damaged are, the Cologne Cathedral, St. Hedwig's Church in Berlin, the cathedrals at Trier, Aachen, and Munster, the ducal palace at Karlsruhe and the medieval quarters of Frankfurt, Augsburg, and Nuremberg, and all the leading churches and museums of Munich.

WHAT THEY BELIEVE

When one tells a German that, after all, the Germans did the same thing to London in the winter 1940-41, he looks at you in blank astonishment, naturally, for he never heard of it!

His propaganda related to him the burning of the London docks, the demolition of industrial targets, the destruction of shipping on the Thames.

He is honestly ignorant of the Luftwaffe's tragic toll in England and he actually believes that it was England and not Germany that began the bombing of cities.

The German's passive acceptance of such statements is very annoying to

an outsider. I repeat them only as a matter of record.

Unfortunately even intelligent France accepts this propaganda theme to some extent.

"MURDER INC."

Perhaps the most unfortunate incident of all was the bringing down of an American plane in December, 1943, which had been nicknamed by its crew "Murder Inc."

We know that it is the habit of American plane and jeep crews to christen their vehicles with whatever name strikes their fancy, a practice that would never be permitted in the Navy. American planes costing our Government a neat fortune are sometimes known as "Hot Mamma," "Leaping Lizzie," "Fancy Pants," and the like.

Such a thing is unthinkable to the Germans with their literal minds. They christen their planes and tanks with names from the poetry and legend of their people. So to the Germans the name "Murder Inc." seemed, not a young man's fancy, but an official designation for an American bomber that was destined to kill German women and children in its errand.

The crew of this ship was photographed with their jumpers upon which the name "Murder Inc." had been embroidered, and the pictures were printed in every newspaper in Germany and many in France. Kenneth D. Williams from Charlotte, North Carolina, who was one of the plane's crew, managed to glower at the photographer in such a way that he looked like a chimpanzee.

All this led the German editors to remark that evidently not only the names of American planes but also their crews were taken from the Chicago gang-land.

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
Stamford Hill 2262

All letters on other than editorial matters should be addressed to the Manager

THE ONE-WAY MIND

THERE was an illuminating passage in the recent Commons debate on the vote of Credit:

"Mr. Eden: I think we should win the war and lose the peace if we did not take every military and political precaution in our power to see that Hitler, who is not an accident but a symptom of a certain mentality, or his successor, never had the like opportunity again. (An Hon. Member: 'The German people put him there.') Of course, the German people put him there."

"Mr. Cove: Poverty and unemployment put him there."

"Mr. Eden: If the Hon. Member thinks that, he misunderstands every movement in this war."

"Mr. Cove: Hitler is the product of poverty and insecurity."

"Mr. Eden: If the Hon. Gentleman really believes that Hitler did not have at that time the support of the German people, and that he does not represent a quite definite German mentality, he is living in a most dangerous world."

Mr. Eden was unable to grasp that Mr. Cove's thesis that Hitler was the product of poverty and insecurity, is not in the least incompatible with his having had the support of the German people. Quite the contrary, it is based on the knowledge that the German people "put Hitler there." It offers an explanation of why they put him there.

They put him there, says Mr. Eden, because he represents "a quite definite mentality." If we do not believe this, and disbelieve that he was put there because he promised that he would end unemployment and insecurity, we "misunderstand every movement in this war."

That is the cocksure opinion of a man with a one-way mind—the very worst kind of mind, we think, to fill the office of Foreign Secretary at a time like this.

But to imply, as Mr. Eden does, that because there is a definite mentality in Germany which believes in war, this is the sole or dominant mentality of Germany is plain nonsense, or a wilful perversion of the facts. At the very height of the crisis in which he became Chancellor, Hitler secured only a bare majority of votes. The mind of Germany was desperate and divided. When it turned to Hitler, it turned to him in much the same way as the mind of Britain turned to Mr. Churchill at the end of the phoney war.

Mr. Churchill represents "a definite mentality of the British people"; but so did Mr. Neville Chamberlain, whom Mr. Churchill so relentlessly attacked. Mr. Churchill believes in war—it is for him the only manly kind of politics. And a great many Britons agree with him, because the events of war (as Burke said) always captivate the vulgar minds for whom the politics of peace have no attraction. Nevertheless, Mr. Churchill does not represent the permanent temper of Britain.

Neither does Hitler represent the permanent temper of Germany. He represents the mood of a Germany driven to despair. Mr. Eden, in his time, has also represented a mood of this country—a rather superficial League of Nations mood. Now, however, he is the fashion-plate replica or understudy of Mr. Churchill, with twice his leader's shallowness to compensate for nothing of his fire. Mr. Eden, in his own belief, "understands every movement in this war." The one sufficient clue to it is that Hitler "is symptomatic of a dominant sentiment, force and tradition among the German people." On that basis it is impossible to understand anything essential about the war at all. The world is dangerous enough, as it is. Why should it be made more dangerous by our having to suffer Mr. Eden as Foreign Secretary?

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THE REIGN OF LAW

- and the way to its establishment between nations

William Ernest Hocking is one of America's best philosophical minds—perhaps the best if we reckon Whitehead as an Englishman. In a notable article in *Life* (April 17) he arraigns American policy—and by implication British—for its lack of positive purpose. "It is the aim beyond victory," he says, "which alone justifies the fighting. To have no such aim suggests a moral vacuum not creditable in a great people."

The positive aims which he proposes as congruous with the American genius are two: one, the raising of the standard of life among the peoples of Asia by American technology—primarily, by assisting them to mechanize their primitive agriculture; the other, by the re-establishment of international law.

What he has to say on this should be of concern to all politically-minded pacifists, and we therefore reproduce it below:

It is necessary to recognize the deep difficulties in which international law is caught. It is also necessary to recognize what the alternative is, if there can be no authoritative law for nations.

It is that the order among nations rests on the "I-will" of the strongest Power. In this case, aggression could not be called unjust; it could only be called, in the present case, bad judgment. I press the alternative: you either exonerate the Nazi-Japanese outburst on every ethical ground, or else you hold that even in these non-justiciable problems of existence, status and boundary, there is a discoverable reason, a discoverable right-and-wrong, and therefore a basis for law. For law is the coinage of the ethical sense of mankind.

★

There can be no doubt of the decision. We cannot believe in the finality of any appeal to an arbitrary "I-will." Those who profess to believe in it, when it comes to an appeal to their own people to fight, always trump up an ethical motive. There is a deeper reason: law is the way the human mind works. No human act can reject the question, "Why did you do it?" as impertinent. If States are to grow or decline, or to combine or divide, still more there must be assignable reasons. And if there are reasons, there is the raw material of law.

Hence the demand for a working international law arises with new vigour after every setback. Even in the absence of all institutions, the will-to-law operates on national behaviour: it is seen in the concern for the "opinion of mankind," in the groping toward defensible practice, in the very hypocrisies of statesmen who dare not avow themselves naked of justification. It is obligatory upon us to revitalize its foundations. Just because its prestige is at low ebb, it becomes all the more an object of positive policy to promote the necessary new thinking and plan the appropriate institutions.

We cannot begin by setting up a world government with legislative and executive departments, armed with force. For even if there could be found men of sufficient calibre to run the world—which I doubt—and a firm public opinion to back them, it puts things in the wrong order to begin enforcing a justice not yet thought out in principle. The first institution should therefore be a world court, capable of applying such law as exists and a commission auxiliary to that court for working out a code, not of specific laws, but of fundamental principles of international law. We can reach principles here long before we can reach a finished code.

★

The important thing is to begin. For to have any institution devoted to this end is to make visible the resolve of nations to live under law and to set up the first law: "the law that there shall be law."

Law has to grow tough with time and application. It needs this far more than it needs force. As it becomes a working law, it bears directly on security. For as respect for law is effectively present in all men and nations, the habit of referring to law constitutes an unwritten alliance of every nation so committed with every other such nation. There would be a reasonable relaxing of military security just so far as the spirit of

Words of Peace—83

NEWIDOLATRY

The dehumanization of man by organization is the portentous doom of the political development of the modern world—a development fostered equally by the forces of the old traditional State and the mass-mind of modern democracy. That is why we are told that a second Beast will arise to aid the first whose mortal wound has been healed, and work out all the implications of its principle.

What for the early Christians was the worship of the Emperor has assumed today a novel form. It has become the Caesar-worship of organization, of the mass mind, which assisted by a servile press, increasingly beleaguers the individual conscience and threatens to overpower any attempt, by a soul devoted to God, to oppose the omnipotence of public opinion and its slogans.

Genuine service of Christ can consist only in maintaining an invincible resistance to this collective bestiality. This alternative concerns not only the individual soul, which by acquiescence in the passions of the masses incurs the most fearful danger, but society as a whole, which must inevitably erect dishonesty into a principle of government and become the sport of shifting currents—if in the human soul the entire spiritual power of the Redeemer does not counteract the potent magnetism of society.

—F. W. Foerster, "Europe and the German Question."

LETTERS

Famine Relief Committee and the Kershner Plan

In your issue of July 14 there is a reference to a discussion on the question of food relief in the annual meeting of the National Peace Council held on July 4, which contains the following passage:

"It is understood that a message from the Famine Relief Committee opposing support for the Kershner Plan was read to the meeting. Dr. Kershner is unpopular with some American Quakers because he is not a pacifist. He is unpopular with the Famine Relief Committee because he has said openly that the opposition to extended relief is in London and not in Washington; he has committed the unpardonable indiscretion of telling the truth."

The Secretary of the Famine Relief Committee writes to me to say that this paragraph gravely misrepresents the position of the Committee in these matters. She rightly indicates that there was in fact no "message from the Famine Relief Committee" though there was a personal letter written by herself to me which was read to the meeting. She adds that "The Famine Relief Committee has never opposed, by word or by implication, the Kershner Plan, but asked urgently that it and other plans coming from America should be considered." In regard to the claim that Dr. Kershner is "unpopular" with the Famine Relief Committee, my correspondent says, "Dr. Kershner, on the contrary, is highly esteemed by the Famine Relief Committee and his splendid efforts in his own country on behalf of our common humanitarian aims are fully appreciated."

The letter goes on to say, "The Famine Relief Committee does not stand for 'another type of relief'. It recognized the difficulties involved in a blockade policy and pressed for the minimum which their experts considered to be useful. It fully realized that the help offered was inadequate to meet the needs but believed that it was considerably better than nothing and that the psychological effect would be important. If permission for a more adequate scheme should be obtained by any other body the Famine Relief Committee would greatly rejoice in the prospect of saving more of the children from starvation and ill-health."

In view of the importance of maintaining good relations between all those who are concerned to promote the cause of food relief for necessitous Europe, I trust you will think it possible to publish these disclaimers.

GERALD BAILEY,
Director, National Peace Council,
144 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

We have had an opportunity of seeing an excerpt from the letter read at the NPC annual meeting. It does not appear to make clear that it gives a purely personal view, and in our opinion it is, on the face of it, susceptible of the interpretation given to it by the writer of our news item.—Ed.

15 Dunstan Rd., Tunbridge Wells.

that I have not agitated—or been the cause of other ex-Service men agitating—enough to bring into being a fellowship of ex-Service pacifists. But I am quite willing and very eager to help him and others to start such a fraternity.

I have no special organizing qualifications, but I would sincerely like to work for such a cause for the rest of my life.

WILLIAM J. BEST
ex-Royal Irish Regt.
Charlton Horethorne, Sherborne, Dorset.

"Holy Night"

Talking about spiritual atrocities—what about this, which strikes me as the worst I have yet seen? (Of course the worst thing is the heading.) It comes from *Time* (USA) of Jan. 3:

"STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT"
In a darkened farmhouse just north of San Vittore, on the road to Rome, Germans were clinking glasses and singing the old songs of Christmas Eve. Outside, Lieut. Frank S. Greenlee of Nashville and a patrol of 15 stole through the enemy lines, crept close enough to identify their quarry. They then let loose, killing many, taking the rest prisoner.

HARRY GLEAVE
Poulton-le-Fylde, nr. Blackpool.

Food for thought

The advertisement in PN, Jun. 30—"Gentleman would take married couple as sole paying guests in 16th-century manor house. Own sitting room, telephone. Garden produce, poultry. In quaint old-world village near golf course. Bus route. Trains 1 hour London. 6s gns. each"—makes me wonder if the "gentleman" is a pacifist. Whether he is or not, there is much food for pacifist thought on the matter.

ARTHUR BAYNTUN
9 Bedford St., Woburn, nr. Bletchley, Bucks.

Man and his motives

Mr. Wilfred Wellock in his article "Where stands pacifism?" (July 14) utters a profound truth when he says that "the foundation of a Christian society is man as a human person, creator." The foundation has been well and truly laid during the centuries which have elapsed since the birth of Christ, and man now shows himself to be the perfect creator of weapons of destruction for safeguarding Christian civilization. Whatever the style of society may be, man remains the same at bottom, whilst his motives are ever changing.

S. GORDON HOGG
15 Dunstan Rd., Tunbridge Wells.

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Youth : pawns or persons ?

LORD MOTTISTONE, in the Lords, June 21, moved to amend the Education Bill to provide that instruction in every county and auxiliary school should include simple teaching about the right and duty of the citizen to defend his native land. He stressed, by attacking the famous Oxford Resolution, that by "defend" he meant "fight for": to kill those whom the Government declared at any particular time to be enemies.

Subsequently, the Earl of Selborne promised that the Government would issue a circular to the suggested effect.

I wonder whether Lord Mottistone or the Government would object to the same teaching being given now to Indian children, or after the war to German or Japanese children. A right principle should have universal application!

If one is not yet brutalized, one should be shocked at the fact that boys who were 15 at the outbreak of war are now fighting in Normandy. The majority, after being herded in classes of 45 or more, left school at 14 and became unskilled workers with no real prospects in life.

Many of them had seen their brothers and fathers unable to find jobs, neglected by the Government. They knew nothing of the Treaty of Versailles, the victorious Powers' broken promises to disarm, the fierce trade war, the Ottawa Agreement, the powerful people in this country who were aiming to rearm Germany and direct her might against the USSR, nor did they know of the struggle in India to win freedom.

These boys, in September, 1939, knew nothing of these things, but now they are being sent, or allowed, to misuse their undoubted courage, talents and lives, in attempting to destroy German boys as innocent as themselves of causing this war.

To help to prevent this happening again, the PPU set up its Youth Committee to win public support for the attempt to give youth a fair chance in the future: to prevent its being biased towards violence; to train it to be fearless enough to see, and try to remove, British faults; to show it that the only true defence for its native country is friendly international policies, including the fair sharing of world resources; to advocate the refusal to dominate, either politically or economically, other nations, the ending of military conscription, and world disarmament.

We wish young people to be, not mass-produced robots, but alert, fearless individuals, ready to use their lives in constructive service to mankind. With this aim, the following conferences have been arranged: for teachers and those working with Youth, on Aug. 16, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; for young people from 14 to 20, on Sept. 7, 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.; both at Friends House, Euston Rd., London.

SYDNEY GEORGE CONBEER.

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MESSRS. McCRAITH and Brooks (44 Market Place, N.W.11), SPEEDWELL 9888 (3 lines), have the following properties to offer pacifists requiring accommodation:

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WANTED. MEDIUM-sized house suitable small guest-house, sea or country, or would exchange nice house at Barnet, Herts. Box 531.

FEW SPARE rooms available for pacifists whose homes have been destroyed. Terms easy. Box 536.

YOUNG COUPLE desire to rent/buy cottage in Home Counties. Box 545.

MILLION CHILDREN STARVING IN PARIS?

Food relief extended in Southern France

"Parisians will have to be helped somehow if we do not want four million people, including over a million children, to be on the verge of starvation soon."

THESE words from an observer who had just reached Madrid from France were quoted in the News Chronicle on July 15. "Vegetables were the only food reaching the capital," he said. "and there were hardly enough of these for all the population."

This statement is in line with comment on the fairly favourable food situation in Normandy, which was attributed to the interruption of supplies from that food-producing province to Paris. "There is no evidence," the Manchester Guardian then declared, "that conditions in many parts of France further inland are anything but appalling."

RELIEF IN THE SOUTH

Southern France has always suffered most severely. The Swedish Red Cross has been able to do some relief work recently. At least 1,000 children in Nice and Marseilles have received "meals" consisting of "specially nourishing food which is unobtainable in France" including cheese, jam, and fruit, and "sufficient protein and fat."

Now a belated report from America reveals that the US Government has permitted the American Friends Service Committee to transfer £25,000 to Portugal and Switzerland to purchase "urgently needed milk, cereals, dried fruits and vegetables, oil and fish . . . although supplies available in both Portugal and Switzerland are . . . limited in quantity and categories."

Distribution will be under the supervision of the International Red Cross and will be carried out by Secours Quakers, the relief agency

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER!

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1

administered by French Friends. These French Quakers who took over Kershner's relief work in Southern France when the southern zone was occupied have emphasized that although the services to the children had been maintained, the number receiving help had to be "considerably reduced" because of lack of supplies."

CONTROL IN GREECE

Following up recent questions on the control of relief in Greece, Mr. Graham White asked in the Commons on July 18 if it is still the case that imports of foodstuffs from Axis-controlled sources into Greece have exceeded in quantity exports of foodstuffs from that country since the German occupation?

Mr. Dingle Foot replied:

"Under the terms of the Greek Relief Scheme the German Government is under an obligation to send food to Greece sufficient to compensate for any exports of foodstuffs from Greece to Germany and for any foodstuffs requisitioned by German troops. During the period from Sept. 1, 1943, until Feb. 29, 1944, which is the latest for which I have precise information, German imports into Greece for Greek civilians (other than Greek workers directly employed by the German authorities) slightly exceeded the combined total of exports to Germany and of requisitions. If, however, account is taken of the food wantonly destroyed by the German forces, allegedly as reprisals for Greek guerrilla activities, these imports from Germany fall far short of the total of foodstuffs of which the Germans have deprived the Greek population. It must make it quite clear that for this and other reasons His Majesty's Government are by no means satisfied with the way in which the conditions of the Greek relief scheme are being observed by the occupying authorities."

On June 20 Mr. Foot admitted that the reprisals were not a breach of the letter of the control agreements. In default of an explanation of his "other reasons" we must assume—as has always been supposed—that the control in Greece has in general worked perfectly, not only in regard to imports but also where domestic supply is involved.

WITHDRAW STRIKE LAW

The withdrawal of Defence Regulation 1A (a), which makes it illegal for anyone to propose or support strike action at a meeting constitutionally convened by a trade union, is demanded in a leaflet published by the London Area PPU.

Supplies of the leaflet are available to PPU groups at 1s. 6d. per 100, 6s. 6d. per 500, and 10s. per 1,000. Also available from the London Area Office (8 Endsleigh Gardens, W.C.1) are: a memorandum on the Regulation; a draft letter to local organizations inviting them to join in demanding the withdrawal of 1A(a); and suggestions for house-to-house distribution of the leaflet.

PUBLIC MEETING

The release of the three people recently imprisoned under the Trade Disputes Act, and the withdrawal of Defence Regulation 1A(a) will be demanded at a public meeting to be held by the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee in Holborn Hall at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

LITERATURE, etc.

QUAKERISM. Information and literature respecting the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London W.1.

SIXPENCE FOR 3 pamphlets, £1. each: "Absolute Pacifism"; "Conciliation and Private Judgment"; "India: Who is Responsible?"; poem from D. Owen, 6 Mount Street, Chester, 2.

MEETINGS, etc.

OPEN TO all ex-prisoner C.O.s Informal breakfast meeting, 9-1 a.m., Sun., Aug. 6, 109 Elgin Crescent, W.11. Keep up your contacts

PERSONAL

RON CARLILE (Signals) died N. Africa, May 25, 1943. His birthday was Jul. 28. Mr. and Mrs. Carlile and Jack, 10 Fairfield Rd., E.3, ask friends to join in prayer on this day for people everywhere who have lost loved ones. "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end."

CONTACT CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. A satisfactory medium for those desiring congenial pen-friendships. Particulars, stamp, Secy., PN, 19, Ty Fry Gardens, Rumney, Cardiff.

PACIFIST PEN-FRIENDSHIP Circle projected, to enable isolated pacifists maintain contact. Those interested please write A. J. Cook, 93 Melville Rd., Stonebridge Park, London, N.W.10. As scheme would be voluntary, stamp etc. for postage expenses would be appreciated.

HOSPITAL FOR books and music. Re-binding and repairs. Nancy Rouse, "Colleton," 96a Broadwater Rd., Worthing.

PUBLISHING. WRITER starting publishing venture wishes to contact someone with practical experience of the business. Box 533.

SITUATIONS VACANT

It is impossible to confirm satisfactory conditions of employment in all posts advertised in Peace News. Applicants who are in any doubt are recommended to consult the Pacifist Service Bureau, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1, which will often be able to give useful advice.

URGENT: outside representative for typewriter business. Salary and commission. Owner, C.O. anticipating prison. Cook, The Mount, Noah Hill, Romford, Essex.

YOUNG MAN wanted for food production and help in country prep. school. Accessible London. Good home and holidays. Write fully. Box 528.

PERMANENT SITUATIONS for married couple with Christian ideals in business house with canteen, as cook and caretaker. Pleasant surroundings near Wellingborough. L.M.S. main line. Reply Box 527.

WANTED — COOK, vegetarian, male or female. Miss Harris, Hinton House (Vegetarian Nature-cure Home and Guest-house), Hinton Charterhouse, nr. Bath.

GARDENER WANTED. Work approved by War Agric. Comtee, and suitable for man having land work exemption. Married couple considered, wife helping in house. Agric. scale wages. Heys Farm Guest House, West Bradford, nr. Clitheroe, Yorks.

RYDE SCHOOL: Wanted September—Resident Master to take Science throughout the school and some sixth-form mathematics. Games a recommendation. Apply with three recent testimonials to the Headmaster.

URGENTLY WANTED for market gardening: single C.O., previous experience not necessary. Box 587.

PORTER REQUIRED to replace man joining F.A.U. Apply or write St. Columba's Hospital, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

GIRL WANTED for market-garden work and to help in hostel run for land workers. Box 548.

BOY OF 14 or 15, healthy and honest, wanted for farm work. Live in. Country district Lancashire. Standard rate of wages. Boy from good home preferred. Box 547.

PEACE NEWS Publishing Dept. needs a secretary-assistant: shorthand-typing, filing, a share in the general work. Would probably suit girl under "military" age, or married woman. Any applications gladly considered. Write Office Manager.

SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED

DUPLICATING—100 copies, quarto 4s. 6d. postage extra. Also expert typing. Winifred Jewell Typewriting Office, 8 Lammes Park Gardens, Ealing. Phone Ealing 1645.

YOUNG MAN (single), 22, requires market gardening or nursery glasshouse work. Three yrs. experience. Leicester or Glos. Accommodation necessary. Urgent. Box 534.

ONE DAY'S work per week required, London area, by experienced business-man of principle; preferably outdoors. Box 535.

July 28, 1944, PEACE NEWS—3

Magistrates condemn "cat-and-mouse"

BELOW are the statements made by the chairmen of the Justices at Lewes and St. Albans, in sentencing George Elphick and Kenneth Sibley respectively, as reported on page 1.

Mr. F. Bentham Stevens, at Lewes, said that the Bench entirely disapproved of Elphick's attitude, and failed to understand it. Nevertheless, they realized that he had an objection and the case was extremely difficult. Having made clear that they entirely disapproved, the Bench did feel that this case had really been before them quite often enough. They could not see that any very useful purpose was served by any further prosecutions.

After dealing with the object of the punishment the chairman continued: "We confess that we have failed. The question is whether we should go on trying. A statement at St. Albans" (i.e., that reported below) "has been quoted and I confess we are impressed. We propose on this occasion to follow the example of the Court at St. Albans and to fine you £1."

Mr. Cyril W. Dumpleton (the Mayor) at St. Albans: "I am expressing my own views, not shared by members of the Bench necessarily. I think the continued direction to do fire-watching, in the circumstances, is alien to the spirit which has been declared by members of the Government as to how conscientious objectors should be treated, and continued persecution is wrong. By a majority decision, the Bench will fine you £1 for each of these offences which is before us this morning."

At the Lewes Court George Elphick said, after discussion, that in view of what the Bench had said he was willing to pay the fine. He has previously been sent to prison five times.

Kenneth Sibley, the St. Albans objector, has been fined on eight previous occasions, but he has not been sent to prison.

The full story of the protests that were made when a ninth prosecution for Elphick became a possibility is told in the July issue of the CBCO Bulletin, now on sale, price 3d. by post 4d.—from CBCO, 6 Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR HITLER

The attack by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, on the probable post-war "reconciliation with murderers" on the assumption that Germany bore sole guilt for the last war as well as for this, has drawn a reply from the Rev. Richard Lee of Coventry. (Part of Mr. Cross's attack was quoted in PN fortnight ago.)

Mr. Lee who, like Mr. Cross, is a member of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, cites (in The Inquirer, Jul. 15) many famous historical authorities who agree in dividing responsibility. He adds:

"Many forces have helped to create Hitler. France, Britain, Italy, and America have helped to make him possible. It does infinite harm for men of standing like Nicol Cross to affirm with passionate vehemence a proposition of such doubtful validity. Such assertions only serve to keep the war blood boiling. Our task should be to wash our own hands and encourage others to do likewise."

YOUNG MAN (26) with varied exper. social work seeks position involving some responsibility. Particulars, testimonials. Box 538.

AGRICULTURAL WORK wanted by married C.O. (age 28, with 2 children) with 3 yrs. varied experience. Preferably market-gardening and/or driving—also interested in community. Sowden, Edgehill Cottage, Branscombe, Devon.

ACCOUNTANT, EX-SCRUBS C.O., prepares all forms of accounts, Income Tax returns, audits etc. Box 539.

YOUNG MAN (28) seeks job in progressive school as general handyman. Previous experience. Using Box 540.

C.O. 39, SEEKS land work, 2½ yrs. experience, drives car. Board and small wage considered. Box 541.

3 C.O.s, 21-24, one married, wife available housework, seek temporary/permanent land-work, 3½ yrs. general farm land exp. Int. community. Box 542.

2 C.O.s, SINGLE, 21-24, seek land-work. 3½ yrs. general farm/land exp. Int. community. Box 543.

LADY WISHES to assist to run, or be initiated into running, second-hand bookshop. Will go anywhere. Box 544.

MARRIED COUPLE require post. Social or land work, moderate experience, accommodation essential. Duncombe, Rectory Farm, Charney Bassett, Berkshire.

C.O. SEEKS situation as outside representative to firm. Box 546.

MISCELLANEOUS

GROUP MEDITATION (London). Yoga and Heard-Huxley theories. Active proponents, write Bragg, Meriville, 105 Tulse Hill, S.W.2.

INSTITUTE PSYCHOLOGY, Kensington. Lectures every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Philosophy, genuine social introductions. Consultations all problems. Western 8935.

NATURE-CURE TREATMENT of disease (including eyes). Reginald J. Bailey

NEWSPAPER'S CHALLENGE ON NEGOTIATED PEACE

Text of an unpublished reply

ON Jun. 28 The Yorkshire Observer reported: "The Peace Pledge Union are holding a public meeting in Bradford this evening, at which they will endeavour to advance cogent reasons for a negotiated peace." The newspaper went on to make this challenge:

"Believing that a negotiated peace at this time with an undefeated Germany would result in another war before the century is out, The Yorkshire Observer addresses the following open questions to the Peace Pledge Union for their consideration:

"1. What grounds have the PPU for believing that peace terms will be kept by a nation found guilty of breaking every treaty and agreement by which they should have been bound?

"2. What grounds have they for believing that an undefeated Germany (which means a fully-armed Germany) would be content to honour terms which only the threat of defeat caused them to sign?

"3. What hope have they of a permanent peace with a nation whose principles are based on the false doctrine of racial supremacy, and who, still undefeated, regard themselves as the 'herrenvolk' of the world?

"4. Do the PPU put any reliance on the word of Hitler? If not, with whom would they negotiate the peace?"

Henry Hilditch, organizer of the PPU Negotiated Peace Campaign, had sent one letter in connection with the campaign for publication in The Yorkshire Observer. A little later he followed it up with a second, answering the questions quoted above. The first letter was published on Jul. 5, and on the same day the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, Mr. O. B. Stokes, wrote to Mr. Hilditch as follows:

"You probably noticed that we gave a long letter from you in connexion with the PPU campaign in this morning's Yorkshire Observer. Before that was in print I received another long letter from you on the same question.

"You are not the only one who is writing from the PPU angle, and in these days of shortage of space it is impossible for me to accommodate all the correspondence I receive. If the PPU had sent an official reply to the criticisms and comments which have been made on their campaign I would have printed it, even if it had taken up a column or a column and a half, but it is impossible for me to accommodate all the haphazard replies which are being sent in, and as we have already published a fairly lengthy letter from you, I am sorry that I cannot publish what you have now sent in."

Following a further letter from Mr. Hilditch, the Editor wrote on Jul. 10 that he was sorry not to have received

the letter answering the questions earlier, "but as I have now concluded the correspondence I regret I cannot revert to the topic again." In his reply Mr. Hilditch said that a shortened version of the unpublished letter was being sent to Peace News. This version (a copy of which has been sent to The Yorkshire Observer) we now publish:

"Whether or not an agreed peace would lead to another war in the next 55 years, history alone can say. We do know that every dictated treaty in the past has led to another war within a generation. In 1925 Earl Grey said of peace by agreement, a possibility in 1917, 'Prosperity and security might today be more fair in prospect for us all than the victory of 1918 and the treaties of 1919 have made them' ('Twenty-five Years').

"Germany, even in this war, has kept agreements when it has been in her interest to do so. This is all that any government does. Captain Liddell Hart says in 'Why don't we learn from history?', 'I cannot conceive any serious student of history being impressed by such a hollow phrase as "the sanctity of treaties" seeing that treaties have no stability beyond being in the interests of the government to adhere to them.' There is more likelihood of an agreed treaty being kept than a dictated one.

"There is no guarantee that a peace treaty signed only because of the threat of defeat would be kept, but even to disarm Germany totally and keep her disarmed would not ensure peace. History shows that a thoroughly beaten enemy has always led to a war with one of our Allies within a generation. The only guarantee of peace is an agreed treaty which it is in the interest of all nations to keep.

"All great nations are guilty of the false doctrine of 'Herrenvolk'. The general belief is that one Englishman is worth ten foreigners. Mr. Duff Cooper was speaking as a responsible British statesman, and not as a music-hall comedian when he said 'We are the greatest people on earth, and I am not sure that we are not the greatest people that have been on earth' (Broadcast, May 24, 1942).

"We place no reliance on the word of Hitler, or indeed any other statesman. The keeping of any treaty depends, not on the persons who sign it, but depends and depends only on what is written in the treaty. Churchill may appear to the German people as Hitler does to the British people, but whether these men or others represent their nations is really beside the point. The important thing is what kind of treaty you desire.

"Negotiation is not only the soundest national policy in that a better peace would be obtained than by dictation, but it would save the lives of many now fighting and the lives of the next generation."

Trade enslaved by gold

'OBSERVER' CONTINUED

be a man of moral courage like Mr. Wallace.

President Roosevelt could have insisted on Mr. Wallace. He would have risked precious votes thereby: for Mr. Wallace is the outspoken advocate of the New Deal, and he emphatically includes negroes among those to whom it should be dealt. Even as a politician Mr. Roosevelt may have miscalculated; he may lose the Negro vote in the North. But he had a difficult choice to make. And his known determination to avoid, if he humanly can, the fate of President Wilson, may have carried the day. It seems pretty plain that Mr. Wallace bears him no grudge.

Poland's "quislings"

IN vain, M. Mikolajczyk, the Polish Premier, has declared his willingness to go to Moscow, if only Moscow will receive him.

Russo-Polish relations appear to have touched bottom with the creation of a Committee of National Liberation to take charge of civil administration in re-occupied Poland. It has been appointed by the Polish National Council in Poland, and the first article of its manifesto is that the Polish Government in London is illegal "because it is based on the Fascist Constitution of 1935." The news comes of course from Moscow; and its obvious intention is to make the rupture between Poland and Russia complete, by setting up as the legal Polish Government a Russophil junta.

The talk of "legality" is humbug. The Russian Government regards the 1941 partition of Poland between itself and Germany as "legal". The shortcomings of Poland, and the Polish Government, are many and various: but the behaviour of Russia towards that unhappy country admits of no excuse. The new Committee of National Liberation is as much a "quisling" government as any established by the Germans in the West.

Golden stranglehold

LORD KEYNES, in a press conference at Bretton Woods (which has been a very depressing exhibition) let the cat out of the bag. "The real purpose of the Monetary Fund," he said, "is to bring back gold as a fundamental reserve money." No doubt, he said it under pressure from

the American banking interests; but the important thing is that he could say it.

It is to belabour a dead horse to insist how utterly futile and obviously dangerous is the effort to re-establish gold in the age of modern productivity. It must have the effect of strangling the beneficent exchange of goods. Lord Keynes knows that better than anybody.

But, in reality, the chief object of the most powerful nation at Bretton Woods is to strangle the exchange of goods. USA does not want to receive goods for goods. No new Monetary Funds or World Banks can alter that basic reality. Only a radical change in national policies can make these new institutions work.

They want more

A DECREE, published in Moscow on July 8, announces a series of measures for increasing the population which certainly are (as the Economist, July 15, says) "unique in social legislation." The main substance of the programme is a huge increase in the allowances for children, beyond the second.

Previously, large allowances were paid for the seventh child and beyond, but none for the first six. Now, a small allowance is to be paid for the third child, a large one for the fourth, increasing until the eleventh, for whom a very large allowance indeed is to be paid: 23,000 roubles in 5 years. Since the average monthly wage of the lower income groups is 500 roubles a month, i.e. 30,000 roubles in 5 years, the eleventh child is a bonanza. The working-class father of a mere ten children receives for them 91,500 roubles in 5 years: that is to say his wages are more than quadrupled. And there are innumerable other privileges.

Class-distinction

ENLIGHTENED? I have my doubts. What I am quite sure of is that one of the attendant measures is reactionary in the true sense.

"The procedure of divorce has been made as uninviting as possible. Divorce cases are to be heard in public. Only a higher court, not a People's Court, can grant a divorce. In addition, the fees to be paid on obtaining a divorce have been fixed so high as to be entirely prohibitive for the working classes. Divorce has become a privilege open only to the high-income classes."

I shall, no doubt, be once more accused of crabbing USSR. There are quite a number, even among pacifists, for whom the USSR is sacrosanct: the millenium manifest. How they can go on believing that it is steadily advancing towards "the classless society" passes my comprehension. It is on the way to becoming the antipodes of such a thing.

G.L.'s HOME DESTROYED

The house in Bow in which George Lansbury lived for many years was destroyed in a recent flying-bomb attack. It came to be regarded as an institution in the East End during his life-time.

ASTHMA

and Catarrh sufferers should send stamp for particulars of Greatest Remedy known to Medical Science. British Medica Laboratories, Ltd. Desk G Heathcote Rd., Boscombe, Hants.

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Allied rain of terror

The Germans have certainly given us fair warning of V.1; but our rulers, instead of advising us, as they cynically tell the enemy, that if we don't like it we can capitulate, or get out and watch the home fires burning, say the real remedy is to get on with victory, and in particular the occupation of Pas de Calais!

"There is no reason to believe that these accounts are exaggerated, and we make no apology for mentioning them. The moral of all this—including flying-bombs—is that modern war is a stupid and savage anachronism, and it is up to us who have learned something about its ghastliness to see that it does not happen again."